

CHICAGO, ILL.  
NEWS

E-466,424

NOV 11 1967

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Our West Coast  
Bureau Chief



**HAZARDS OF SUBURBAN LIFE:** Until you've seen a middle-aged man, braced against a 50-mile-an-hour wind, standing on a roof, his back to a wild ocean, his face to a brush fire, holding a garden hose in one hand and a martini in the other—until you've seen all that, you haven't witnessed raw courage in action. So commented a neighbor after our scary Malibu fire.

● **UP SACRAMENTO WAY:** Friend and foe seem to be supporting Gov. Ronald Reagan in his flat denunciation of columnist Drew Pearson's report that two former staffers were homosexuals. "I have nothing but sympathy for Ronald Reagan" remarked Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty. "He is a man of the highest personal character and he would not have a man on his staff who doesn't meet his standards."



Yorty

● **WHY SPOIL SUCCESS?** Caltech has just launched an \$85,000,000 fund drive. Not a dime of it will go to its record-breaking football team.

Why should it? Who else can boast of losing 26 conference games in a row? For a cumulative score of 1,205 to 178? Says coach Bert LaBrucherle: "The coaches feel pretty bad on Monday, but the boys are always ready to go again, and that makes us feel better."

● **SHOCK ABSORBER:** Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney, says he's terribly upset after getting one of those Detroit notifications recalling his car for a checkup for possible brake failure. The telegram came from that paragon of paragons, Rolls-Royce. "I'm in total shock. In fact, I've just gone through three law books to find out what my state of total shock is worth," he said.

● **ART ARAGON,** once known as "Golden Boy," got in the bail bond business in Los Angeles after his ring career was over. "I was a fighter for 18 years and I never got hurt," Aragon says. "I've been in the bail bond business for seven years and I've got ulcers, a slight heart condition, gout, and my hair is going gray." But he admits the 10 per cent bail fee eases the pain.

● **CHICAGO STEEL HEIR** William Thoresen III is still fighting with his attorney, the noted J. W. Ehrlich (author of several books, including "Never Plead Guilty"), over just how much he should reveal about the 70 tons of illegal arms found in his San Francisco mansion.

Ehrlich has told Thoresen to keep his mouth shut, but Thoresen and his wife, Louise, "feel there are a number of things that should be said," another of the young millionaire's lawyers told a federal judge. The judge indefinitely postponed a ruling on Ehrlich's motion to withdraw from the case and set Thoresen's trial for Jan. 15.

● **STILL HUNGRY:** Mort Sahl just completed a successful run at the hungry in San Francisco, where he got his start, fresh out of the University of California, 14 years ago. He is still in sweater, and the crowds laugh and applaud just as enthusiastically.



Sahl

Now Sahl is hung up on the JFK assassination, like New Orleans District Atty. Jim Garrison, and he doesn't like those who aren't. "The ones in the press who ridicule the conspiracy theory, the columnists who call Garrison or myself insane—I think some of them are in the pay of the CIA. I know that sounds paranoid, but I want you to chew on that for awhile," he told an interviewer.

● **AN 'R' IS SLIPPING:** A stunned Los Angeles School Board has given its superintendent, Ralph Richardson, emergency authority to deal with a "reading crisis."

A national test placed California "substantially below" the national average in the reading capabilities of its school-children, and Los Angeles ranked 10th out of the state's 10 largest school districts.

"This calls for a renewed, doubled and dramatic effort," Richardson said.